Effective policy to check population growth

†2689. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that developmental work is not taking place in commensurate with the increase in population and as a result approximately one-third population in the country is living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, the stringent measures Government propose to take by formulating effective policies to check population growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Population variables are both determinants and consequences of the development process. As per census 2001, the percentage decadal growth during 1991—2001 registered a decline of 2.52% as compared to 0.8% during 1981—1991. However, during this period it is seen that the growth of GDP has been higher while the annual exponential growth rate of foodgrain production during 1991—2001 has matched the population growth.

(b) The Government adopted in February 2002, the National Population Policy (NPP) which envisages certain National Socio-demographic Goals to be achieved by 2010 for paving the way for a stable population in the country by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth and social development. It provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India, and to achieve net replacement levels (TFR=2.1) by 2010.

Deaths due to TB

2690. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming rise in the rate of deaths due to TB (Tuberculosis) in so much so that one person dies from TB in every minute in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to control and eradicate the disease;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have planned to restructure and revamp the National TB Control Programme to effectively tackle the disease;

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the programme for the current year; and

(e) whether his Ministry has sought for special allocation of funds for the programme in view of the gravity of the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Deaths due to TB are not reported under the National TB Control Programme (NTCP), but it is estimated that approximately one person dies of TB every minute in the country. No alarming rise in the rate of deaths due to TB has been reported.

(b) and (c) To control the disease, National TB Control Programme (NTCP) is in operation in the country since 1962. The programme is integrated with primary health care infrastructure and it is implemented through a net work of 447 District Tuberculosis Centres (DTCs) and 330 Chest Clinics. To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases put on treatment and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. About 480 million population has already been covered under the revised strategy till now. Under the programme, free of cost diagnostic and treatment facilities are provided to the patients.

It is envisaged to cover 800 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005 under the revised strategy. To make the programme more accessible to larger segment of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is to involve medical colleges, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme. Under RNTCP, as per the latest quarterly report, an average success rate of 84% has been achieved as against the target of 85%.

(d) and (e) The RNTCP is being implemented in the country in a phased manner with World Bank assistance and Department for International Development (DFID) and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) are supporting RNTCP Implementation in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa respectively. The amount sanctioned and spent under the National TB Control Programme for the current financial year is as under:

(*Rs. in crores*)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2002-03	115.00	18.00(30.6.02)

Treatment in private hospitals

2691. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of treatment in some prominent private hospitals in Delhi is woefully inadequate and scandalous for the poor people, as reported in the 'Times of India' dated, the 12th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the newspaper article primarily refers to the Apollo Hospital. As per the agreement reached between the Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd. (IMCL) and Government of NCT of Delhi, 25% of beds are to be treated as free beds, however the consumables and medicines etc. are not provided by the management of Apollo Hospital to all such referred/poor patients. As regards other private hospitals which have been provided land on concessional rates and are bound to provide some percentage of beds and OPD free of cost as per the lease agreement, no powers are vested with Government of NCT of Delhi to take action against any such erring hospitals as only the land allotting agency which has entered into the lease agreement can take action.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi is proposing to bring a legislation to regulate the private nursing homes/hospitals.

Development of AIDS vaccine

2692. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has called for early development of AIDS vaccine;